

Passing any legislation that would give foreigners veterans benefits from the American taxpayer without providing just compensation to our citizen veterans is unfair. These are Americans who in the Bataan Death March were tortured, imprisoned, and starved; and, to date, have been denied benefits Congress would grant to Filipinos. Does the United States Congress have no conscience? Furthermore, it is incredible that the Japanese Diet is considering giving benefits to the Japanese captors who are responsible for torturing and maiming our own men. Now the U.S. Congress is adding another insult to those who suffered in the Bataan Death March. The provision that was not included in H.R. 6897, the Filipino Benefits bill, is included in H.R. 1570, The Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act, which I have introduced year after year. A copy of a previous "Dear Colleague" letter that I sent to Members of Congress and the Veterans' Affairs Committee contained the following information.

BATAAN DEATH MARCH SURVIVORS DESERVE JUST COMPENSATION

Dear Colleague: In 1942, American and Allied troops fought bravely against the Japanese army during the Second World War on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. Due to the low supplies and no hope of reinforcements, these men fought valiantly until they were forced to surrender to the enemy. Our troops were corralled in the Mariveles, just south of Bataan, and were forced to endure the journey of their lives—the Bataan Death March.

Treatment by their Japanese captors was inhumane and often fatal as those who could not continue marching were summarily beaten or executed on the spot. Many marchers attempted to escape into the jungles and some succeeded; however, most were forced to continue on their journey. Once they reached the railroad sidings, the troops were crammed into railroad cars like cattle. After reaching Camp O'Donnell in the jungles of Arlac Province, our soldiers were held as prisoners of war (POWs) for over 3½ years.

Over the years, Congress has adopted provisions concerning the pay, allowances and benefits of members of the uniformed services in "missing status" and "POWs". As a general proposition, the provisions are intended to leave members of the uniformed services who are in "missing status" and "POWs", including their dependents, in the same position they would have been if the members were not missing. Unfortunately, veterans of the Bataan Death March were never given their due allowances or benefits. It is only fitting that those soldiers who bravely fought and sacrificed for our freedom be appropriately compensated for their service to our country.

In an effort to give these brave men their just benefits, I have introduced H.R. 1570. This legislation would provide compensation to those individuals who were forced to partake and held imprisoned following the ruthless procession. I ask you to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this legislation and ensuring that those who gave so much in service to our Nation receive just compensation for their sacrifice and valor. Today a grave injustice was committed when American POW Bataan Death March Survivors were ignored and left behind.

While this statement is in opposition to the action approved by the U.S. House today, I in no way want to imply that the military service sacrifice by Filipino nationals to the United States should not be recognized, appreciated or properly compensated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to preparations for and recovery from Hurricane Ike, which impacted my Congressional district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Thursday, September 11, Monday, September 15, Tuesday, September 16, Wednesday, September 17, Thursday, September 18, and Monday, September 22.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote those days, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 586, 587, 589, 590, 591, 602, 603, 604, 607, 613, 615, 617, and 618, and "no" on rollcall Nos. 585, 588, 592, 593, 594, 605, 606, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 614, and 616.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes Compact before the House today is the result of years of efforts by the Great Lakes governors, other elected officials including state legislators from both sides of the partisan divide, and others who live, work, or recreate in the region to work together to help ensure a set of shared principles and protections for the Great Lakes.

The collaboration that has produced the compact that is before us today was undertaken because of concerns that without a comprehensive and basin wide approach to the current and future threats to these bodies of water, we would lose them.

These threats include a growing demand for water by users—including utilities, agriculture, manufacturers, concerns about the impacts of climate change, declining water levels of the Lakes, and pollution.

While the agreement has widespread support among elected officials, environmental groups, and others, I do understand that some have raised concerns about some aspects of the agreement.

That is to be expected because while this is a good agreement it is by no means a perfect agreement. It wasn't meant to be perfect. If it was, we would still be waiting for an agreement.

But it is a good agreement, especially since we know that simply doing nothing is not an option or solution. This agreement was good enough to bring governors from eight states and both sides of the aisle together. It was good enough to win the approval of legislatures in eight states (with a combined 1,300 legislators.)

Together with companion efforts in the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the Compact would place new emphasis on a shared commitment to conservation and set new decision-making standards for Great Lakes water use.

The compact would require each state to use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of basin water, ban new diversions of water from the basin, and calls for the development of regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency.

This legislation before us today would formally give Congress's assent to the compact, as required by law.

The document before us today also is a recognition by the stakeholders who are bound by its terms—and with approval by the House, the Congress as well—that we all have a shared duty "to act together to protect, conserve, restore, improve, and effectively manage the waters and water dependent natural resources" of the Great Lakes basin "for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of all citizens, including generations yet to come."

One of the most effective means to do this is through unified and cooperative policies and programs as outlined in this agreement. It would be a shame if after the hard work and negotiations and compromise that has shaped this process from day one, that Congress would let this opportunity slip away.

The Senate has already approved this bill and I urge my colleagues here in the House to do likewise.

TO HONOR ZACH SMOTHERS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on August 23, 2008, Zach Smothers celebrated his 12th birthday in Galveston, Texas and possibly gave more than he will ever receive. Early in the party, Zach's 3-year-old-cousin, Gianna, fell into a swimming pool and sank straight to the bottom. Fortunately for her, someone close by was watching and took immediate action.

Twelve-year old Zach sprung up, saved the little girl from the pool, and proceeded to do what he had seen on television—CPR. Although the young man did not know it was CPR he was performing, he did know the practice could save a person's life. As Zach pumped hastily on his young cousin's chest, a dark liquid came from her blue lips and she began to breathe. He yelled for help and grabbed the attention of the adults, who rushed young Gianna to the hospital where she was given a clean bill of health.

It is a sincere pleasure to recognize Zach Smothers today. This young boy knew his younger cousin was in danger and came to the ultimate rescue. People like Zach make America proud and remind us that people do extraordinary things every day. Surely Zach Smothers knew on his birthday that it is truly better to give than it is to receive.

HONORING BILL GATES, SR.

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, from those to whom much has been given, much